

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A system stored on computer readable media, comprising:  
an input component that reads a meta-model to determine a structure of an item and  
stores the structure of the item to computer readable media,  
the meta-model comprising at least one meta-relationship and at least one meta-class, the  
at least one meta-relationship describing one or more relationships between meta-classes, ~~and~~ the  
at least one meta-class being a class encapsulating data employed to represent another class, and  
the at least one meta-class is identified via a globally unique identifier.
- 2-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the input component is associated with  
services that operate in conjunction with an operating system framework.
- 5-7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the item is a document.
- 9-10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the one meta-class is associated with a  
relational database.
12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least one meta-class is identified *via* at least one of a name and a caption to facilitate application development.

14-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least one meta-relationship optionally including at least one meta-role.

19-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) A data management system stored on computer readable media, comprising:

a processing component that receives an item that comprises a meta-model, the meta-model comprising one or more meta-classes, the one or more meta-classes comprising classes encapsulating data employed to represent another class, the one or more meta-classes is identified *via* a globally unique identifier; and

an analysis component that determines at runtime a structure of the item by reading the meta-model and stores the structure of the item to computer readable media.

23-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) Computer executable instructions for performing a method to process meta-data, the computer executable instructions stored on computer readable media, the method comprising:

receiving at least one meta-model object, the meta-model object comprising at least one meta-relationship between two or more meta-model classes;

determining the structure of an item according to the meta-relationship between the two or more meta-model classes, the two or more meta-model classes are identified *via* a globally unique identifier; and

storing the structure of the item to computer readable media.

30-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently amended) A computer implemented system stored on computer readable media, the system to facilitate determining the structure of an item, comprising:

means for modeling a meta-data object, the meta-data object comprising a meta-model, the meta-model comprising a meta-relationship between two or more classes, the two or more classes are identified *via* a globally unique identifier;

means for determining the structure of the item at least in part *via* the meta-relationship; and

means for storing the structure of the item to computer readable media.

36-41. (Cancelled)